



MINUTES



CITY OF HUNTINGTON BEACH PUBLIC WORKS COMMISSION DECEMBER 16, 2009

**Call to Order/
Pledge of Allegiance:** The meeting was called to order at 11:00 a.m. by Chairman McGovern, who led Commissioners and the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Commissioners Absent: Commissioners O'Connell, Spencer

Commissioners Present: Commissioners Herbel, Kirkorn, McGovern, Rivera and Siersema were in attendance.

Others Present: Travis Hopkins, Director of Public Works
Tony Olmos, City Engineer
Bob Stachelski, Transportation Manager
Howard Johnson, Utilities Manager
Chuck Davis, Landscape Architect
Linda Daily, Project Manager
Joyce Greene, Administrative Assistant

PRESENTATIONS-COMMENDATIONS

None

MINUTES

Motion by Commissioner Kirkorn, seconded by Commissioner Siersema to approve the minutes of November 18, 2009.

VOTE: The motion carried.
AYES: 4
NOES: 0
ABSENT: 2 (O'Connell, Spencer)
ABSTENTIONS: 1 (Rivera)

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

None

DIRECTOR'S ITEMS

- E-1. Travis Hopkins discussed the closure of City Hall December 28 through 31, 2009. On-call crews will be available for any emergency, and Utilities crews will be available for water service issues.

Chair McGovern inquired if the recent rainfall had any effect on the city. Howard Johnson responded rainfall has totaled just over 2-inches for the season.

Travis Hopkins added that, during the most recent rainfall, Newland Street did not experience flooding in the location of the recent street widening project. This particular area has previously been a problem area with rainfall.

Travis Hopkins asked Bob Stachelski to give an update on the Bus Shelter project for the transit center on Pacific Coast Highway. Bob Stachelski reported staff had been waiting for a possible appeal by the Coastal Commission due to the change in the shelters being used for the project. The Coastal Commission did not appeal the change. The current design requires more engineering, but a critical deadline was met to not lose funding for the project. Once the lack of appeal time passed, the project could technically be started by purchasing the shelters. When the engineering is completed, the project will be presented to the Public Works Commission for approval.

INFORMATION ITEMS

- F-1. Active Capital Projects Report – Tony Olmos gave updates on two projects and then answered questions of the Commissioners on any item on the report. The Newland Street widening project was open to traffic, one lane each direction, on Thanksgiving morning. The sidewalk on the east side of the project is open. Recent rains have caused minimal delays in the project which is now estimated to complete mid January.

Commissioner Rivera inquired what is left on the Newland Street project for completion. Tony Olmos responded only the base course is stalled for street paving. The finish course will not be installed until almost all the other work is complete. Utilities are pulling cable; however, there has been a legal challenge from Verizon with the city working towards resolution.

The Civic Center retrofit construction is complete with cleanup and punch list work remaining.

Commissioner Kirkorn noted the project on Hamilton between Newland and Brookhurst is installing cable on the existing poles and inquired if this was approved or should the cable be installed underground. Both Tony Olmos and

Travis Hopkins responded. The city does have an underground ordinance with exception. The requirement is met when replacing cable and it is replaced wire for wire. The new fiber optic cable has more bulk and is more unsightly but meets the city requirement resulting in limited control.

- F-2. Upcoming City Council Study Sessions – Travis Hopkins reviewed the list of upcoming study sessions. A special Study Session will be held January 29, 2010, the Strategic Planning Retreat.

Chair McGovern inquired if infrastructure is discussed at the Strategic Planning Retreat with Travis Hopkins responding it is. The transfer of block wall ownership pilot project was a result of direction from City Council at the last planning retreat.

The memo to the Charter Review Commission on infrastructure could be discussed if it is finalized and sent prior to the retreat.

- F-3. Water Efficient Landscape Requirements Update Required by the State of California – Travis Hopkins introduced Chuck Davis, Landscape Architect, who gave an overview of the proposed Ordinance that will be presented to City Council December 21, 2009. The State of California, through Assembly Bill 1881, requires agencies to adopt the State Ordinance or a similar one by January 1, 2010.

In 1992, in response to State requirements, the City of Huntington Beach prepared a landscape ordinance, one of the most comprehensive in the County, for water efficient landscape requirements. Assembly Bill 1881 requires agencies to either adopt the State ordinance or develop its own ordinance that is at least as effective as the State's. The City ordinance has been modified to meet the intent of Assembly Bill 1881.

Chair McGovern asked what steps will be taken to meet compliance once the new ordinance is approved. Chuck Davis responded staff will be required to enforce, however, no funding is available in the current budget for additional staffing. Travis Hopkins added enforcement will be complaint driven at this time.

ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

- G-1. Memo to the Charter Review Commission on Suggested Revision to Charter Section 617 – Chair McGovern informed the Public Works Commission that the changes as submitted by the Chair and Vice Chair were incorporated in the memo. He then asked the members of the Commission if there were any more changes.

Motion by Commissioner Siersema, seconded by Commissioner Herbel to approve the draft memo for submittal to the Charter Review Commission.

VOTE: The motion carried.
AYES: 5
NOES: 0
ABSENT: 1 (O'Connell, Spencer)
ABSTENTIONS: 0

Chair McGovern then added the next step will be the wording for Charter Section 617. The sub-committee consists of Chair McGovern, Michael Siersema and Billy O'Connell.

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS

None

COMMISSION AND STAFF COMMENTS

Commissioner Siersema inquired where the city stands on the block wall issue. Travis Hopkins responded at the direction of City Council, staff is developing a pilot program. Discussion ensued.

The Public Works Commission is fervently in opposition to the proposed block wall program of transferring ownership from the City to the adjacent property owner.

ADJOURNMENT

The Public Works Commission adjourned to the meeting date of Wednesday, January 20, 2010, 5:00 p.m., City Council Chambers. The meeting adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

John McGovern
Chair

Joyce A. Greene
Administrative Assistant